

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STAR  
WEEKEND

## TREASURY BONDS

Weak taka is bringing down foreign investment in the debt instrument

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## TRUMP BACKS DOWN

Says US embassy in Israel won't be moved to Jerusalem in a year

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# 'Pleasure' trip or what?

Chittagong port forks out about Tk 1cr to send its outgoing chairman along with 11 others to Morocco, South Africa to gather knowledge for it

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Just two weeks before going back to the navy, the Chittagong Port Authority chairman went on an eight-day official visit to South Africa and Morocco apparently to gather knowledge on how to improve the port's operation.

Questions have been raised over the trip as CPA Chairman Rear Admiral M Khaled Iqbal will have only six days, upon his return, to implement the things learnt in the overseas visit.

A number of officials at the Chittagong port have cast doubts about the outcome of the trip, saying nothing much could be learnt from visits to the South African and Moroccan ports since those are not as developed as the European and US ports.

A delegation that includes Khaled is on a visit to the Port of Cape Town in South Africa and the Port of Tanger-Med in Morocco from January 16 to 23. Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan is heading the team.

In a letter to the CPA on December 24 last year, the shipping ministry also included Shajahan's son, an Awami League MP's son, and the CPA chief medical officer in the 15-member team.

Their inclusion in the team surprised many of the port officials, who say the sons of the minister and the lawmaker, and the medical officer have nothing to do with the port's development work.

Besides, five members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the

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Some old trees on the median strip of Jessore Road in India's Petrapole area. Inset, similar trees along the same road in Jessore's Jhikargachha. The authorities in Bangladesh plan to cut 2,300 such trees along the road for its expansion. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SUBRATA ACHARYA/STAR

## Tigers take on Lankans today

SPORTS REPORTER

Although it is all that people outside the two relevant dressing rooms seem to want to talk about, there has been a conscious effort from those inside to avoid making today's tri-series match about Sri Lanka coach Chandika Hathurusingha taking on Bangladesh, his former charges, for the first time since switching sides.

"Bangladesh are not playing against Hathurusingha; they are playing against Sri Lanka," Sri Lanka batting coach Thilan Samaraweera, another former Bangladesh support staff who took up a corresponding position in his native country, said yesterday ahead of the match that gets underway from 12:00pm at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

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## Students' demo shuts Nilkhet

Commuters suffer; students of 7 DU-affiliated colleges demand 2nd-yr results by this month

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of seven colleges took to the streets at 11:30 am yesterday, blocking the capital's Nilkhet intersection for more than two hours. This resulted in lot of suffering for commuters who were stuck in long tailbacks because of the demonstration.

The agitated students roped off the intersection, halting traffic movement for more than two hours, causing severe traffic congestion in the area.

They barred every vehicle and even pedestrians from crossing the intersection till noon. Some of the students sat in the middle of the road and chanted slogans.

Demonstrating students of the seven DU-affiliated colleges yesterday gave ultimatum to the university authorities for publishing their 2nd year final result by this month.

On information, DU VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman reached the spot at around 1:45pm and assured them of publishing the results by February 25.

Rejecting the vice-chancellor's assurances, the students of 2014-2015 sessions threatened to go for tougher movement from February if the authorities fail to publish the results by January.

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## JESSORE ROAD

### Tree felling halted for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday halted the felling of century-old trees along the Jessore-Benapole road following protests against a government decision to cut them down.

It directed the authorities concerned of the government to maintain a status quo on the tree felling for six months.

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# ALTERNATIVE IS THERE

110ft wide govt land along the 38km stretch can save century-old trees on historic Jessore Road

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Although there is sufficient government land on both sides of Jessore Road, the local authorities seem to be hell-bent on expanding the historical road by felling more than 2,300 trees, several hundred of them nearly two centuries old.

And the justifications the Jessore Roads and Highways Department is offering for cutting these trees are nothing but "lame excuses", experts and environmentalists have said, warning of an environmental disaster in the region.

On January 6, the RHD in Jessore made the decision to expand the highway to 10.6 metres from 7.3 metres now because of the increasing traffic on the road that connects



Satellite image shows the green canopy of a section of Jessore Road's Bangladesh part (38km). In the Indian side, the road is 61km.

the country's biggest land port in Benapole with India's Petrapole.

Currently, some 500 goods trucks as well as about 10,000 passengers to and from India use this route. The Benapole Port authorities collect about Tk 12 crore in

customs duty every day, said port Director Aminul Islam.

Earlier in July last year, the government shelved a similar plan to fell 2,700 trees for widening the same highway following protests

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## Banking sector is not free from flaws

Says Muhith

STAR REPORT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday admitted in parliament that the country's banking sector was not completely without problems.

"The banking system is not completely free from issues. I don't think there is any shortage of efforts to make it free from flaws. It will take more time to execute the measures," he said.

The minister was responding to a private member's resolution on ensuring transparency and accountability in running banks and financial institutions, reports UNB.

Awami League lawmaker Israfil Alam tabled the resolution at the House, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The Jatiya Sangsad on Tuesday passed the Banking Companies (Amendment) Act 2017 amid criticism from various quarters that the revised

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Hawkers selling clothes on Bangabandhu Road in Narayanganj's Chashara yesterday afternoon. It is the same road where supporters of city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and followers of local Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman clashed Tuesday over evicting hawkers from footpaths, leaving around 50 people, including Ivy, injured.

PHOTO: STAR

# It's all for money

Conflict over N'ganj hawker eviction has nothing to do with politics; hawkers pay AL men, police Tk 1.35cr a month

RASHIDUL HASAN and SANAD SAHA from Narayanganj

Tuesday's mayhem in Narayanganj was all about money.

A section of ruling party leaders loyal to local MP Shamim Osman and some unscrupulous police officials control the footpaths and collect tolls from the hawkers, generating around Tk 1.35 crore a month, claimed about 20 hawkers of Narayanganj city who talked to The Daily Star.

The feud between NCC Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and AL MP Shamim Osman over the eviction of hawkers had nothing to do with politics; it is totally about the money paid by around 4,500 hawkers, they said.

The money collected is shared among the leaders of AL, AL-affiliate organisations and Chhatra League of Narayanganj and police officials of Chasara Police Camp and Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, the hawkers claimed.

The money is collected by 25 linemen on Bangabandhu Road alone, they said.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of hawkers said they have to pay from Tk 20 to Tk 300 every day to "police and a section of local influential AL leaders who get a portion of the money".

The amount depends on the size and location of their makeshift stalls.

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